

Embassy of India
Tokyo

Remarks by Ambassador H.E. Mr Sibi George at the Seminar on
'Advancement in Telecom Sector in India: Opportunities for India-
Japan Collaboration' on 15 May 2024

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Distinguished guests,

A very good evening to you all.

I am delighted to welcome you to today's seminar on the theme of 'Advancement in Telecom Sector in India : Opportunities for India-Japan Collaboration'. It is an important area of our bilateral relationship offering significant potential for India and Japan to jointly further growth in our telecommunications sectors through technology convergence and collaboration.

2. Friends, India and Japan share a Special Strategic and Global Partnership rooted in shared values, mutual respect and a common vision for a peaceful and prosperous future. The growth of this partnership has been remarkable over the years. It covers cooperation in a wide range of areas, from trade & investment and infrastructure development to critical and emerging technologies and defense & security.

3. A key pillar of our bilateral relations is economic cooperation. Japan, as the 5th largest investor in India has been a reliable partner in India's economic growth and development. Prime Ministers of our countries have set a target of 5 trillion yen in private investment and

public financing from Japan to India and we are making remarkable progress towards achieving this.

4. Friends, India stands as one of the world's fastest-growing economies today. From tenth largest in 2014 to fifth largest in the world today, India's economy is projected to be the third largest in the next few years. It is a top destination for foreign direct investment. This has been made possible due to landmark economic reforms and unprecedented infrastructure development in India.

5. In light of these transformative changes, I have been actively engaging with Japanese companies, particularly SMEs, to foster investment opportunities and promote B2B collaboration between our countries. So far, I have visited 44 prefectures, meeting with government officials and business representatives to strengthen our engagement and explore the potential for mutual growth and development.

6. The telecom sector in India has also witnessed remarkable growth and transformation in recent years fueled by regulatory reforms and improvements in supporting digital and telecom infrastructure. India's telecom sector is today the world's second-largest with a vast subscriber base and substantial contributions to our GDP. The recent deployment of 5G and steps towards 6G highlight our rapid technological advancements, with significant support from initiatives like the Production Linked Incentive Scheme, which has given a push to domestic manufacturing.

7. Japan, as a key investor and a leader in technologies like 5G and AI, brings invaluable expertise. Collaborative efforts between India and Japan, including joint R&D and harmonization of regulatory frameworks, can accelerate innovation and address needs of our countries as well as the world more effectively. Already, our cooperation under the 2021 Memorandum of Cooperation has laid a foundation for enhanced engagement in ICT and has paved the way for advancing cooperation in areas such as 5G/Beyond 5G, telecom security and submarine cable systems. Our countries are also collaborating in under the Quad framework, notably in the area of 5G supplier diversification and Open RAN.

8. Japan's private sector has a major role to play in this. There are success stories of Japanese companies' participation in India's telecom sector, for example in the field of submarine cables. I recently visited Andaman & Nicobar Islands in India, which have been connected with submarine cables by NEC. I understand that a few Japanese companies are currently exploring opportunities, together with Indian companies, in the area of 5G/Beyond 5G.

9. The future holds immense potential for both our countries to lead in telecommunications, driving growth and technological innovation. I would also like to underline that cooperation in telecom sector is important not just from a commercial point of view but also has a strategic and economic security aspect. As two countries with growing convergence in their strategic outlook and shared values, it is important for India and Japan to advance cooperation in this critically important sector for economic security.

10. I am hopeful that today's event will further promote our collaborative efforts in this field. I thank you all for joining us today.

Thank you.
